

NEW YORK JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER.

W. R. HEARST.

AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

ASTORIA FRANCHISE STEAL.

On Thursday next, when the State Land Board meets, it is expected that they will take property to the value of \$25,000,000 from the taxpayers of this city and give it to Mr. T. C. Platt simply because he so wills it.

For the thirty-four acres of redeemable land and the water front opposite Berrian Island the Astoria gas grabbers, of which Platt is the heart and soul, propose to pay the city \$100 an acre.

This will give the Astoria Company its tunnel under the East River. It will enable it to connect its pipes with the mains of every gas company in this city. It will enable the Astoria company to dictate prices. It will be the means of forming a gigantic gas trust.

After the prospective land robbery at Berrian Island, Mr. Platt proposes to push the Astoria gas grab through his legislature under the lash. It grants a franchise in perpetuity for a gas tunnel under the East River. It gives the Astoria company a right to acquire by condemnation any property in this city to which it may take a fancy. It grants the right to tear up the streets and lay pipes anywhere from Harlem to the Battery.

Republicans call this politics. We call it robbery, of which any man without a boiler-plated conscience would feel ashamed. But there is no shame in the soul of Platt. Neither is there shame in the souls of his accomplices.

Such a franchise is easily worth \$25,000,000. Platt well knows that a franchise in perpetuity is in violation of the charter of this city. He confesses that he does not propose to pay a cent for it. Word will simply go forth to the Legislature: Make the robbery of the people legal and respectable, so that it may not interfere with the sanctimony of my daily life or the secrecy with which I conduct my business.

Every man who champions this measure will write himself down as an enemy of the people and an accessory to a gigantic theft from the taxpayers.

Do not the people of this city think they have given away enough franchises and million dollar gifts to corporations?

Do not the people of this city think it about time to insist upon equitable remuneration for city property which is "legislated" into the pockets of private individuals?

If this enormous steal is passed at Platt's order, he will find in future campaigns the slogan, "Remember the Gas Steal," will ring as loudly in the ears of the Republicans as the war cry of the Alamo sounded in the ears of Santa Anna's Mexicans.

Labor and the Trust Question.

Marcus Aurelius Hanna says that labor has found it advantageous to "treat with trusts and organizations."

Always the virtue and holiness of trusts. Always the beneficence of organized money. Always the uplifting of labor by monopoly and greed. These are the perennial texts of Hanna.

Does not the money-coddling Senator know that when labor trembles capital turns pale, fearing a fall—that labor is the turtle of Atlas upholding the world—that labor must be contented before those standing on his back can feel secure?

Say, rather, that the trusts are constantly finding it more to their advantage to treat with labor. The men at the sherkel end of the money treadmills in this country are beginning to realize that if the laborer is not listened to, justly and fairly, something will drop.

In the days when might was right the most powerful human brute was generally the most wealthy by reason of his superior physical facilities for robbery.

Now this is held by us to be un-Christian, sinful and immoral. In consequence physically powerful brutes have been jailed out of existence and unscrupulous wise brutes have taken their place.

The right of the strong to the goods of the weak is still practised. The power of rude brawn has been transferred to money. The result is the same to the producers of money.

Yet it will always be to the advantage of the financial throat-cutters of this country to treat with the men whom they rule and to whom they owe their power.

No Foreign Principality Here.

There are those who claim to perceive in the visit of the Kaiser to England a plot against the United States. They profess to see in his visit a scheme to disrupt this republic by a direct appeal to the German subjects in this country.

They point to the fact that a few weeks ago the Kaiser offered a prize for the German singing societies in Brooklyn. The gift was very properly accepted. Again, the Kaiser presented a flag to 2,000 of his subjects in Chicago. This, too, was accepted.

The flag was an imperial standard, with the German eagle emblazoned upon it, but what of that? There will be no foreign principality in this country. Such thing is an absurdity.

Let the Kaiser go right ahead with his presents. Let the Czar join in. Let each European monarch play Santa Claus with his subjects in this country if he so desires. It will not result in material damage.

When the fives begin to play and the drums begin to roll, we can well afford to welcome our foreign representatives to the ranks, or to permit them to depart themselves if they so desire.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE DAY'S NEWS.

IN PRINCETON Henry Cunningham got drunk and groped about his house for his bottle. He overturned a lamp and was burned to death.

John Kane, after swearing solemnly that he would never again touch liquor, drank himself into convulsions and died, strapped to a cot in Bellevue, with wife and three children wallowing about him.

Mrs. Emily Bigelow, wearing diamonds enough to fit out a showcase, and with a bank book showing a balance of \$30,000, tried to spend it all for liquor. She was found drunk in the street crying, "Give me a drink or I shall go crazy."

Drunkenness, drunkenness, drunkenness, everywhere and on all sides. The police stations are filled with it, the courts are swamped with it, the country is cursed with it. It seems to be a national failing without a national cause.

We are prosperous. Therefore it cannot have hopelessness for a starter. We are a hard working and wealthy nation. There is poverty cannot be the general incentive. Our Puritan ancestors were not drunkards. But the strain of drunkenness exists, and, strange to say, it is regarded by drinkers as a habit, but a recreation.

PERCEIVE a fine object lesson in the woe which wisdom apparently runs Sampsonward. French Government ownership of telephones says: "The promotion of an officer over the heads of other officers operates as a reduction of \$60 a year. The price in this city is 40—four times as much. And yet we are nearly so voluble and garrulous as the trenchmen.

The tariff for local calls in Paris is three cents. In this city it is ten and twenty cents. This without greatly heavier taxation or was a cadet? The profits of telephone companies never give him vertigo.

OLD PATRICK CASSIDY, who served the city for fifty years in Central Park, and who was discharged on account of the weakness of old age, is dead. He will be buried in one of the populous trenches of Potter's Field. He was almost eighty years old.

When Cassidy worked in the Park in his boyhood he used to meet a stern-faced man walking along the paths on bright mornings. "I am happier than ye," Cassidy would say, swinging his shovel. The man was Commodore Vanderbilt.

Jay Gould, Dan Drew, Jim Fisk, the Astors, the great and important personages of American history, would roll by Cassidy with clanking chains and gilded trappings. "I am happier than ye" was Cassidy's satisfied comment.

Neither youth nor old age will be denied. The great men clanked to their marble tombs and pulsed, flashed red with war and white with peace and passed Cassidy by.

He was forgotten until one day some official youngling found an old white-haired man staggering along under the weight of a Park wheelbarrow. It was Cassidy, and he was a forthwith discharged. It broke his heart and he died. The rich men in their marble tombs held houses and lands and great wealth. Cassidy in his Potter's trench will leave a heritage of green lawns and the love of birds and squirrels. Which is the better?

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PLAIN TALK WITH THE PEOPLE.

Let Woman Work.

Editor of the New York Journal:

Would it not be better if all wage-earning women should give up their positions, go back home and attend to household duties, instead of interfering with men's money-earning capacity? From one who was discharged to make room for a girl at lower wages.

Dec. 3. ACCOUNTANT. This is a small portion of a lengthy plaint against the competition of women. We do not see how the general conditions of labor would be bettered if all wage-earning women should give up their positions.

As a general proposition, the money they earn is a burden lifted from somebody else's shoulders. They save many a poor family from the almshouse; their toll lightens the load of many a poor father, mother or husband.

By their toll they are only striking a new labor balance. The things they can do in the field of labor are limited when compared to the capacity of men.

The cry against them is, therefore, foolish and futile. There is not a laboring man who, if he should become incapacitated for work, would not be grateful for the help of a bright and educated daughter.

Ask the poor men with the three or four working daughters who dress well, look well, and earn their own livelihood, if they would have the present condition of things changed? They will tell you "No!" a thousand times over. The wall against the bright working girl comes from the dull single men, or from men who are full of fool sophistries.

Listen to this from a prominent professor of sociology—Rev. Dr. S. G. Smith, of the Minnesota State University. "The existence of the women wage-earner is a crime. The world would be better off if all women were turned out of their positions to-morrow."

Dr. Smith goes on to say that by lowering the standard of wages women lessen their chances of getting married.

Fudge and nonsense! Neither our doleful correspondent nor professors of sociology will ever acquire mental corns by thinking in this fashion.

If woman lifts herself from the hopelessness of one plane into the hope of another, she will always find a plenty of men waiting for her.

Let woman work if she wants to.

Pay the Brooklyn Teachers.

Editor of the New York Journal:

The evening school teachers of Brooklyn have not yet been paid October's salary. Is that tied up also?

Does the Auditor, Comptroller, or whoever has charge of approving the payroll think that the teachers need no money or have no families to support?

Is there any other department of the city where pay is so long delayed or so patiently waited for? I hope the Journal will agitate this question so that we may secure our entire pay before the end of 1899.

Brooklyn, Dec. 2. It is exceedingly hard to tell just what the officials of this city think about the Brooklyn school teachers. They seem to regard them as a species of astral instructor, capable of existing without gross and vulgar food.

Many of these officials profess to be very anxious that the teachers shall be promptly paid. They threaten to do "every conceivable thing calculated to help the teachers."

In the meantime these city officials are not missing a payday. Many of them toll not, neither do they spin, but financially they flourish like lilies of the valley.

Let these high-salaried sympathizers with the teachers miss a few paydays for the good of the schools, and let the checks go where they are most needed.

Heroes of the Manauense.

Editor of the New York Journal:

After reading the graphic account of those boys of the Thirty-first Infantry who fought the sea in a typhoon and who did battle even more nobly than those on land, we think every man of them, either officer or private, should be awarded a medal for bravery by the Congress of the United States.

Were ever men in a more trying place? and in a position where it was fight for life or be swallowed up by the sea? No American can read the accounts of their suffering and bravery without a thrill of admiration for Lieutenant-Colonel Webb C. Hayes and all of his men, who were so plucky in that fight with the storm.

The people of our country cannot ever forget the Thirty-first Infantry and the noble work that brought them through the perils of death. The thought of those poor fellows housed like slaves in a sinking ship is quite enough to make the whole nation cry out against such frightful carelessness in allowing the men of our army to be sent out on the sea in such tubs as the Manauense. MRS. EVA TODD KIDDER. Bartow, Fla., Dec. 1.

PORTO RICO ELECTIONS ON; FEALTY TO U. S. IS THE CRY.

Federal and Republican Parties Applaud Annexation and Reform.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Nov. 29.—(Correspondence.)—Local interest in Porto Rico is just now centred on the elections. The two parties—the Republicans and Federals—are striving for supremacy. The fight is an even one. The result will go a great way toward determining how soon Porto Rico will get civil government.

Elections are to be held in sixty-nine towns. They are all municipal elections for the purpose of choosing the following officers in the various towns: One alcalde (or Mayor), one municipal judge, one suplente (or vice-judge), five school trustees and the members of the Town Council.

All elections are held under the general direction of army officers designated by Brigadier-General George W. Davis. One each of such officers presides at each election.

Those eligible for office are limited to the taxpayers, who are included in the first two-thirds of the total number of taxpayers who are qualified to vote, in the order of the amount of taxes paid. Any taxpayer whose name falls within the one-third remaining, and who pays taxes in an amount equal to the smallest paid by any person in the two-thirds class, is eligible to hold public office. Members of the liberal professions are also eligible.

An elector, to vote, must possess the following qualifications: He must be a bona fide male resident of the municipality; he must be over twenty-one years of age on date of election; he must be a taxpayer of record in the municipality in which he votes at the date of the order, or he must be able to read and write.

Australian System Used.

The Australian ballot system is used. The persons elected are to hold office until November 1, 1900, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The qualifications as to naturalized citizens and felons are the same as in the United States.

The Federal party, which is composed of what is looked upon as the island's better element, is the outgrowth of the old Liberal party, which was organized in 1887. The Federals assert that it was through their influence that autonomy was granted to Porto Rico by Spain, in 1897. The Federals have enrolled in their ranks the majority of the merchants, land holders, plantation

owners and the higher educated and broad-minded element of the island. This party demands a civil government for Porto Rico, with Mr. Luis Munoz Rivera, their leader, as Governor, and with "Puerto-riquenos" at the head of all the departments. The military must be done away with entirely.

The Republican party is a later organization. Although it has been in existence only five months, it has accomplished wonders in pushing itself to the front, under the able management of Dr. Basbosa, who is considered to be one of the best native physicians on the island. The Republicans are composed mostly of the laboring class, and, consequently, the colored element predominates. At the same time, many of the most influential business men are among its members. The Republican party endeavors to stand by the Administration, and by so doing hopes to further its cause.

The following are the essential points in the platform of the Federal party: It accepts and applauds the fact of annexation, consummated after the war. The aims of the Federal party may be thus briefly formulated: Direct and efficient influence in the development of sectional interests through an intelligent and honest Administration; firm and resolute tendency toward absolute identity with the United States in their laws and form of government.

It demands that Porto Rico be henceforth a Territory of the Union, with all the rights of a State except the right of sending Senators and Representatives to Congress, and having, like all other

gentle arts, and so on. Now what do we hear? Miss Hoyt, not through her own taste, I am sure, is held up as a mighty athlete.

She is pictured as a veritable Diana, and one that has not seen her can conceive only the picture of a young woman with the muscles and might of a gladiator, eager with the strenuous life. It is the same that I hear of Miss Mildred Stokes, who, like Miss Hoyt, has just come out. Miss Stokes is pictured as a female John, mightily guiding four spirited steeds at breakneck speed through the Lenox high ways. The higher development, if I may use that phrase, is a good thing, but we are not carrying our adulation of the gymnastic a little bit too far? When will the reaction come? When shall I hear anew that Patience and Prue are deft at the sampler; that their needlework is the attainment of art; that their music is the soft delight of Olympus? When? I ask. I leave echo to the answer. I think I must be growing old.

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however, that Mr. Stokes has done with horses, though he has long been a master in the saddle. But one such experience as his seems enough for any man, and I hear he contemplates taking to the automobile as a graceful change.

I am told that the struggle for tickets to the Strollers' show is something amazing. Thus far the histrionic efforts of my young friends seem assured of success, but I trust it will not be so great as their all-famous Ladies' Day, when one was in imminent peril of broken ribs. I should much dislike to have their play—"The Lady from Chicago"—disturbed by the clamor of ambulance bells. In securing patronesses for their entertainment they have also been eminently successful, the list being headed by the inevitable Mrs. Astor and a ranging southward through other notables. The list, however, does not wind up with the elite of its beginning, and I fear this is due to the early efforts to have a big crush at the show. Certainly there will be plenty of people to go, for the interest to see young Mr. Joe Lamb and the Duke of Manchester is all-absorbing.

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"UNDER THREE FLAGS IN CUBA." CAPT. MUSGRAVE'S EXCELLENT BOOK.

THE whole thrilling chapter of international history which closed with the surrender of General Toral to Shafter at Santiago and the American occupation of that capital is told succinctly and in graphic fashion by Captain George Clarke Musgrave, in his book, "Under Three Flags in Cuba," just issuing from the press of Little, Brown & Co., of Boston.

Captain Musgrave served as a correspondent of the Journal and of English newspapers during both the Cuban and the Spanish-American wars, and was moreover, a trusted officer on the staff of General Calixto Garcia. Landing with filibusters under fire of the Spanish gunboats, campaigning with the half-starved Cubans from end to end of the island, or walking alone, with insurgent dispatches in his pockets, into towns where the Spanish soldiery were as the leaves on the tree; hobnobbing with Werler or fighting his way among scattered detachments of the Spanish forces to meet and interview the insurgent government in its "portable" capitals; looking on in the Cabañas prison, where he was afterward himself to be confined under death sentence, at the execution of men who died for Cuba's sake, or peering through a rift in the chapparral at the burning of plantations and the murder and rape of helpless people; plotting with other Journal men in Havana the rescue of Evangelina Cisneros, or imprisoned in the hold of a pest ship bound for Spain, with exile to Africa awaiting him, and at last in the thick of the battle about Santiago, Musgrave learned the whole story of Cuba her people, her woes and her final emancipation, as perhaps no other man has done.

In weaving that story upon a thread of personal narrative he has imparted to it a lively quality which makes a new and enchanting tale of what other writers have presented piecemeal and many of them by hearsay. And for all the scenes depicted in "Under Three Flags in Cuba" are tragic and impressive to a degree taxing belief, there is in this presentation of them nothing hysterical. The author was several times wounded while upon Cuban soil, and escaped death times without number. In the most perilous of situations he displayed bravery which has made his name a good word among Cubans and Americans alike, but the modesty which marks this recital of his adventures displays a more unusual quality of merit. Previous experience in the British service, in the West Africa campaigns, had made a veteran of him.

After the American victory the present book was prepared, while the author was recovering from fever. Revisiting Cuba, he was shot by an old enemy—a Spanish colonel—in Matanzas. He has now, upon recovery, gone to the Transvaal in quest of further adventure.

When Captain Musgrave first landed in Cuba it was as a sympathizer with Spain, and with the purpose of writing to a "British service-organ" upon the cause of the Spanish failure in Cuba.



Governor-General George W. Davis.

Demand That Porto Rico Shall Be a Territory and Ultimately a State.

Territories, a delegate in Congress, with voice and no vote.

To Be a State in Future. It desires that Porto Rico shall be, in the future, a State, without any restriction whatsoever, like all the other States in the Union.

It upholds the complete autonomy of the municipalities, without any interference from the Federal authorities.

The Federal party will maintain all civil rights, with due respect and enthusiastic devotion, and will favor broader extension of suffrage without opposing the limitations which the United States may deem prudent to express, however, the desire that the right to vote may be extended to all citizens residing in the island.

Courts Must Be Independent.

Free trade between Porto Rico and the rest of the Union, at the same time unifying the monetary system and substituting our circulating medium for American dollars, with the least possible loss to the holders.

The party demands means of higher education for women as well as men.

Reform in Legislation.

The Federal party purposes to reform the present civil, criminal and administrative legislation, with all due respect to the moral and material interests to our society, but in a decidedly democratic sense.

The salient features of the Republican platform follows:

"We endorse and commend the able, patriotic and true American spirit manifested by the Hon. William McKinley, President of the United States, in releasing us from the misrule of Spain, and we pledge our faithfulness to adhere to the new principles of our new country, and have for our aim harmony, unity and good government, relying with confidence upon the hope of a speedy settlement of our national affairs.

"We hail with pride our annexation to the United States."

A free ballot, hostility to the introduction of foreign contract labor, free schools, the English language, equalization of taxation according to American principles, free commerce with the United States, provincial money to be on an equal basis with that of the United States, relief to agriculturists from taxation and the American system of courts are demanded.

WAGNER AND ATHLETIC GIRLS. CHOLLY KNICKERBOCKER DISCOURSES ON BOTH.

I AM sincerely grateful to young Mr. Elliott Schenck. He is about to explain—not that he has done anything to make it necessary.

No, indeed. He is merely going to explain Wagner to us under the most charming auspices. I have long waited to have Wagner explained, and I am sure that, with all the patronage in the hands of Mr. Schenck, he will be able to do it definitely and with tact.

I think Mr. Schenck has chosen a poor location, however, for his mission. He will do the explaining at the Berkeley Lyceum, rather than at the opera. I am sure that many of us who sit in the boxes would be delighted if he would explain while the opera is going on. I knowfully a hundred persons accustomed to boxes that confess utter ignorance of Wagner. Why they continue to flock there is one of the mysteries.

Mr. Schenck tells me, however, that his explaining will be done upon the piano, so I suppose that many of us will know little more when he is through. But I am delighted to learn that he will explain to Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, to Mrs. Betts, to Mrs. Philip Sands, Mrs. L. Townsend Barden, Mrs. Seth Low and other devotees. They have long shown a discreet emotion in the presence of Wagner, and now they are to know what it is all about. Thanks to young Mr. Schenck.

Certainly our young girls are progressing. I have been reading a bit about the season's debutantes, and am now perplexed to know whether we are developing our maidens for the arena or merely for death society. First it is Miss Beatrice Hoyt. In other days one heard that the debutante was beautiful, was blond or brunette, as the case may have been; that she was skilful in the

gentle arts, and so on. Now what do we hear? Miss Hoyt, not through her own taste, I am sure, is held up as a mighty athlete.

She is pictured as a veritable Diana, and one that has not seen her can conceive only the picture of a young woman with the muscles and might of a gladiator, eager with the strenuous life. It is the same that I hear of Miss Mildred Stokes, who, like Miss Hoyt, has just come out. Miss Stokes is pictured as a female John, mightily guiding four spirited steeds at breakneck speed through the Lenox high ways. The higher development, if I may use that phrase, is a good thing, but we are not carrying our adulation of the gymnastic a little bit too far? When will the reaction come? When shall I hear anew that Patience and Prue are deft at the sampler; that their needlework is the attainment of art; that their music is the soft delight of Olympus? When? I ask. I leave echo to the answer. I think I must be growing old.

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